



Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter – 9th December 2022

Value of the month – our value of the month is **thoughtfulness**.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Only another five sleeps until the end of Autumn term and the start of the festive season. Plans are in place for the build-up to the end of the Autumn Term. We are determined that the children have a wonderful time and we really want it to be fun and exciting for them. Our wonderful school staff have been working hard on plans and do look out for messages via ParentMail with further details.

World cup fever has definitely caught the attention of all the children and staff. Reception has an amazing display with all countries being represented and keeping an eye on who is doing well and learning more about the countries around the world. It has been wonderful to embrace the language and cultures of many of our families through this world event.



Attendance – every day counts!

Our current whole school attendance is 87%!

Good attendance is vital for all children, and we must continue to work together to ensure all children are in school. The knowledge and skills that your child gains will support their achievements over time. We have two new areas of focus around attendance over the coming weeks:

- Working with **children and families** to understand the **importance of attendance**,
- conveying how absence **affects attainment, wellbeing and wider outcomes**

Visit by the MP for Luton South – we received a wonderful letter of thanks from our local MP – Rachel Hopkins and an invite to take our school council to the Houses of Parliament and see how government works on a National scale. The school council felt that they would like to go and see the local government and we are working to arrange a trip to the Town Hall.

Shine Star Shine – was Year One's performance this year and retold the story of the Nativity through the eyes of a 'star'. Each child took part in the performance, regardless of need, and each class had their day. A special 'shout out' goes to Maple, as the sound system broke down and in true West End style – 'the show went on'. We are so very proud of every child and how much they have 'grown' since they started in September. They were able to remember their lines, sing all the songs, perform, narrate, and manage stage directions and so much more. It was also lovely to get back to normal and have parents and guardians share the joy of a live performance.

We had a wonderful visitor in for Year Two, who came in to spend the day with them talking about the Great Fire of London and also the key people who were living at that time and wrote accounts of that time. The children had a carousel of activities and opportunities to work with our visitor and really enjoyed the experience. The visitor certainly brought history to life!

Updates from year groups:

- **Nursery & Reception** – produce a wonderful weekly newsletter with all the exciting information about what they are working on and how you can best support your child during the week.
- **Year 1** - Year 1 are currently reading the story 'Bear Shaped', this is based on a true story about a boy who loses his teddy and is left feeling empty inside. The children have been using adjectives to describe the bear and their own toys. Next week the children will go on to write their own version of the story.

In maths we are looking at doubling and halving, children have used various manipulatives to show their understanding.

This week all our Year 1 classes have performed their Nativities to parents. All of Year 1 have been amazing, lovely acting and wonderful singing. We are proud of each and every one of our children.

- **Year 2** - With a ho ho ho and happy holidays to one and all! *Brr!* Winter is upon us but we kept warm with our Great Fire of London Wow day!
We wrote some fascinating fact files about Samuel Pepys - did you know he wrote some of his diary in code so no one could read it? Now you do! Did you also know that he had his portrait painted because he was rich and important? Well it just so happened that we drew some very artistic portraits of him too! Not only that but just as Mr. Pepys MP (yes, he was a member of Parliament!) wrote with a feather quill, we learned how to write with one as well!
Meanwhile, we travelled back in time to meet Mary Porter, who was an eyewitness to the fire! We learned what life was like in Pudding Lane! It was very noisy, crowded - and - we can't tell you why in this newsletter (ask someone in year 2!) it was very smelly! We even practised our Yoga with a great fire of London theme! I bet you didn't know we did Yoga! Well now you do! In fact, if we shared all the fun activities and learning we did this week we would need a whole newsletter to ourselves! Right now though, we're very tired. We're looking forward to a great winter break and some rest. But first... we have more learning and fun to come, so watch this space!

SENDCo - Take a look at the attached leaflets for fun Christmas activities to sign up for during the Christmas holidays.

Admin/Office - Reminder to parents/guardians to order their child's meals through SELECT. A reminder is sent every Sunday and meals can be booked for the forthcoming week or for the whole of spring term.

Meal vouchers for eligible pupils will be issued by **Wednesday 14th December 2022**. Please use the link below to check whether your child/family is eligible for Free School Meal entitlement.

https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Education_and_learning/Schools_and_colleges/Pages/Free-school-meals.aspx

Gentle reminder the extra-curricular clubs will **not** be running in the last week of term – from 12th December until the 16th December 2022.

Whole School Events – Hillborough Infant & Nursery School has a busy last week of term for all our pupils (and staff) to enjoy!

- **Tuesday 13th December** - Santa is having a break from his busy work in the North Pole to see our children and the children might get an extra present to start off their holidays. *Sshh!*
- **Wednesday 14th December** - is a busy day for our pupils with Festive Jumper day, our Christmas meal and to top it all off our Winter Craft session is also taking place in the afternoon! Please make sure you book via ParentMail by Sunday 11th December 2022 and due to Health and Safety only one person can join and we just do not have the room for siblings and buggies. Wednesday is going to be a jammed packed day of fun!
- **Thursday 15th December 2022** - we have the Cinderella Pantomime coming in and some pupils will be able to take part in the pantomime. *Oh no there isn't! Oh yes there is!*
- Finally, **Friday 16th December** - is the last hoorah before the Christmas holidays, children will be able to enjoy their class parties where music, movies and games can be played to welcome in the holidays.

It is starting to get cold outside, so please ensure your child wraps up in a warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf.

Wishing you a twinkly weekend and see you all on Monday.

Josie Walter – Headteacher